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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of : SEP 20 2004

Manabu OUMI et al. : Technology Center 2600

Serial No. 09/581,602 : Group Art Unit: 2653

Filed: August 18, 2000 : Examiner: Bach Q. Vuong

For: INFORMATION REPRODUCING :
APPARATUS, INFORMATION :
RECORDING APPARATUS, :
INFORMATION MEDIUM, :
INFORMATION REPRODUCING :
METHOD AND INFORMATION :
RECORDING METHOD USED :
IN INFORMATION REPRO- :
DUCTION AND RECORDING :
UTILIZING NEAR-FIELD :
LIGHT : Docket No. S004-4005 (PCT)

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER PATENT RULES 97 AND 98**

S I R:

Applicants submit this information disclosure statement pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98.

The present application was filed more than three months prior to the filing of this statement. However, as of the date of filing of this statement, neither a final action

MAILING CERTIFICATE ON PAGE 3

under 37 CFR §1.113 nor a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311 has been mailed in this application. Accordingly, this information disclosure statement is being filed under 37 CFR §1.97(c) and is accompanied by the following 37 CFR §1.97(e) certification:

Rule 97(e) Certification

Applicants' undersigned attorney, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(e), hereby certifies that each item of information disclosed herein was cited in a Search Report of a foreign Patent Office in applicants' counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

Information Disclosure Statement

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.98, a list of patents, publications or other information submitted for consideration by the PTO is provided on annexed Form PTO-1449. A legible copy of each item of information listed on the Form is submitted herewith. Also submitted is a copy of the Search Report which cited each item of information.

As to each item of information, if any, which is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance thereof pursuant to 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) is given in the Search Report which cited the information.

Consideration of this information disclosure
statement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ADAMS & WILKS
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS DD, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

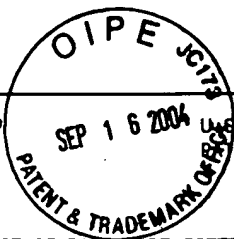
Name

Debra Buonincontri

Signature

September 14, 2004

Date



FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

SERIAL NO.

S004-4005(PCT)

09/581,602

APPLICANT

Manabu OUMI et al.

FILING DATE

August 18, 2000

GROUP

2653

SEP 20 2004

Technology Center 2600

LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA						
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
	AJ						
	AK						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

*		DOCUMENT NO.							DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
													YES	NO
	AL	0	5	9	4	1	9	3	04-27-94	EPO	--	--	n.a.	n.a.
	AM													
	AN													
	AO													
	AP													
	AQ													

OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AR	HIGGENS D A ET AL: "Polarization-modulation near-field scanning optical microscopy of mesostructured materials" J. PHYS. CHEM (USA), JOURNAL OF PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY, 8 AUG. 1996, ACS, USA, vol. 100, no. 32, 1996, pages 13794-13803, XP002289473 issn: 0022-3654
	AS	
	AT	

EXAMINER: Bach Q. Vuong

DATE CONSIDERED:

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.